

Prescribed Fire: Challenges in PA



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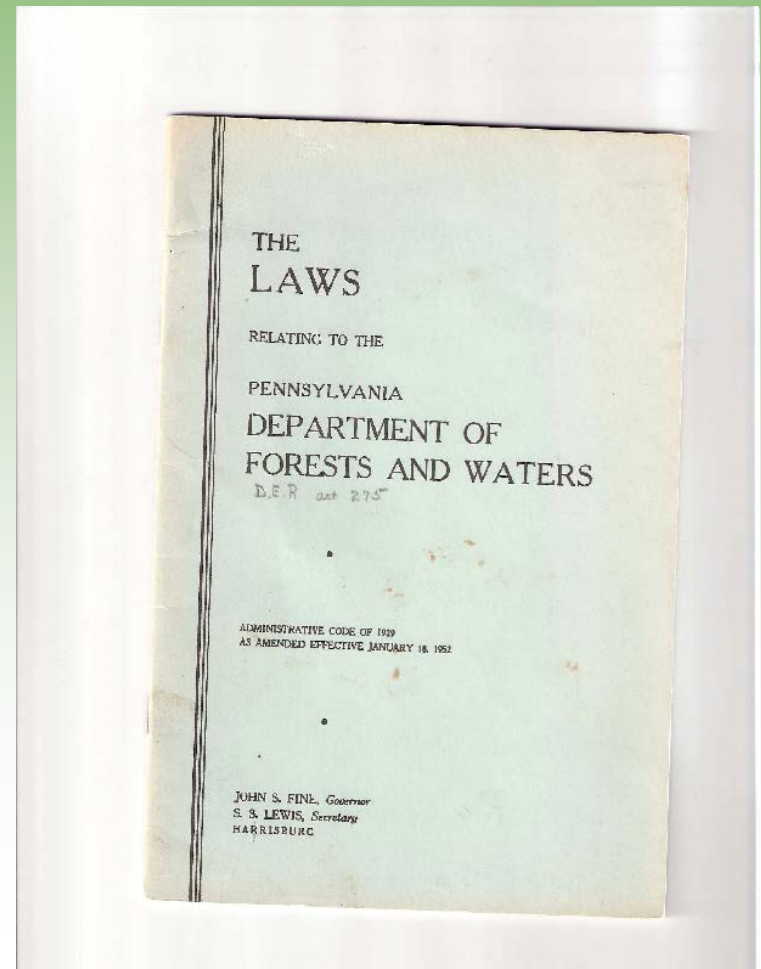
- PPFC origins
- Legislation
- Standards
- Fire Use
- Challenges



Early 2000's

- Working under old fire laws
- Provided no protection
- Interest in using fire for silviculture, invasives, competing vegetation

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- EMAC Committee
- Workshop Held
- Survey in 2005
- Council Formed
- First Meeting in 2008



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Legislation

- Pennsylvania Prescribed Burning Practices Act
- Act 17 of 2009
- Provides protection for landowners and fire practitioners if they are following the standards

☐--TITLE 32 P.S. FORESTS, WATERS AND STATE PARKS

☐--PART I. FORESTS

 ...[32 P.S. PA ST Pt. I, Refs & Annos](#)

☐--CHAPTER 1. FOREST RESERVES

☐--CHAPTER 2. AUXILIARY FOREST RESERVES

☐--CHAPTER 3. NATIONAL FOREST RESERVES

☐--CHAPTER 4. SALE, EXCHANGE OR LEASE OF STATE FOREST LANDS

☐--CHAPTER 5. MINERAL PROSPECTING AND DEVELOPMENT

☐--CHAPTER 6. PURCHASE OF LANDS SOLD FOR TAXES

☐--CHAPTER 7. FOREST FIRES

☐--CHAPTER 7A. PRESCRIBED BURNING PRACTICES ACT

 ...[§ 425.1. Short title](#)

 ...[§ 425.2. Legislative declaration and findings](#)

 ...[§ 425.3. Purpose](#)

 ...[§ 425.4. Definitions](#)

 ...[§ 425.5. Prescribed burn standards](#)

 ...[§ 425.6. Departmental regulations](#)

 ...[§ 425.7. Prescribed burn plan](#)

 ...[§ 425.8. Relationship to other laws](#)

 ...[§ 425.9. Public interest](#)

 ...[§ 425.10. Prescribed burning requirements](#)

 ...[§ 425.11. Immunities](#)

☐--CHAPTER 8. TREES, TIMBER AND LUMBER

☐--PART II. WATERS

☐--PART III. STATE PARKS

☐--PART IV. CONSERVATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Legislative Mandate

- Provides Protection
 - *Civil and Criminal*
 - *Negligence*

Standards

- What is the minimum accepted?
- Positions
- Qualifications and Taskbooks
- NWCG



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PENNSYLVANIA PRESCRIBED FIRE STANDARDS

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide standards, establish common terminology and definitions, and identify planning and implementation procedures for the use of prescribed fire in Pennsylvania.

These standards specify what is minimally acceptable for prescribed fire planning and implementation. Organizations may choose to establish additional standards and policy direction, but they must adhere to, and cannot modify, these minimums.

Prescribed Fire Program Goals

Pennsylvania's prescribed fire program goals are to:

1. Provide for firefighter and public safety as the first priority.
2. Ensure that risk management is incorporated into all prescribed fire activities.
3. Use prescribed fire in a safe, carefully planned manner.
4. Utilize prescribed fire to achieve specific fire and natural resource management objectives.

Authorities

Prescribed fire in Pennsylvania is authorized by the Pennsylvania Prescribed Burning Practices Act (Act 17 of 2009). All prescribed fires conducted in Pennsylvania must be performed in accordance with this act and these standards.

This guide was developed by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council, Training and Standards Committee.

Elements of the Plan

PENNSYLVANIA PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN

Prescribed Fire Name: _____

Agency: _____

Prepared by:

Name:

Title:

Signature

Date

Burn Boss:

Name:

Title:

Signature

Date

Agency Administrator:

Name:

Title:

Signature

Date

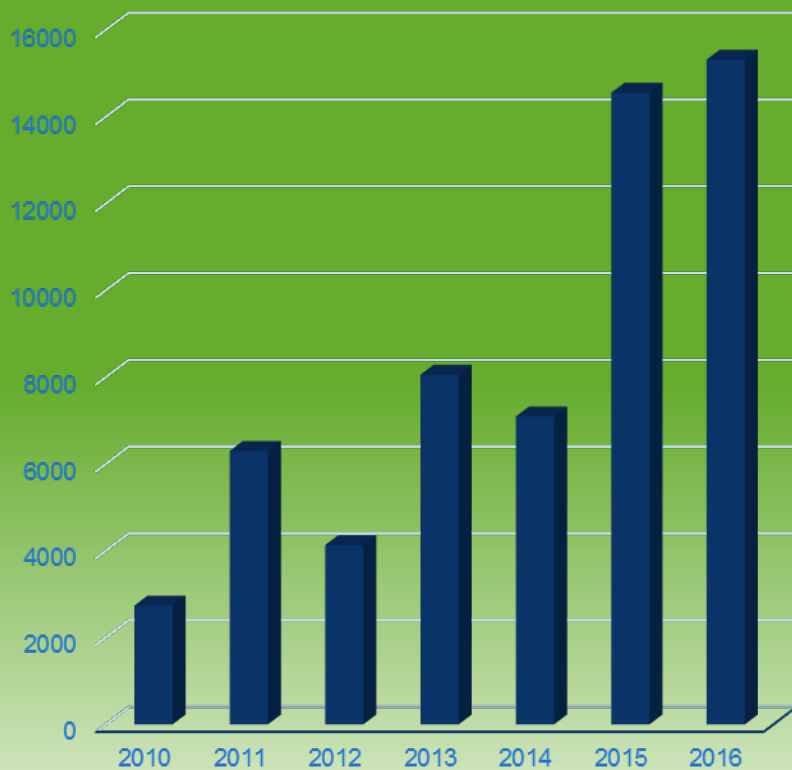
Burn Day Contact Information:

Name:

Phone:

Plan expires 3 years from the date of the latest approval signature, or when the project has been completed. Whichever comes first.

Pennsylvania



- 2010 – 2,737 acres
- 2011 – 6,301 acres
- 2012 – 4,133 acres
- 2013 – 8,058 acres
- 2014 – 7,094 acres
- 2015 – 14,553 acres
- 2016 – 15,373 acres

West Virginia

- 30 burns – 650 acres



Maryland

Year	Burns	Acres
2012	65	846
2013	64	1,190
2014	40	1,088
2015	46	1,185
2016	41	1,120



New Jersey

Year	Burns	Acres
2012		13,500
2013		14,338
2014		15,326
2015		6,497
2016	635	17,820



Delaware

Year	Acres
2012	40
2013	154
2014	205
2015	83
2016	110



New York

Year	Burns	Acres
2012	11	167
2013	19	453
2014	12	302
2015	11	268
2016	12	287



Ohio

Year	Burns	Acres	Private	
2013	160	6,139	53	921
2014	181	6,640	72	2,780
2015	215	8,164	53	1,196
2016	231	4,924	61	1,670



Challenges



Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Qualifications Standards

Position	Courses	Task Book	Operational Periods
RXB1	S-490 RX-410	Yes	10
RXB2	S-390, RX-301, RX-310, RX-341, S-200	Yes	10
RXB3	None	Yes	10
FIRB	S-234, S-230, S-290 I-200	Yes	8
FFT1	S-131, S-133	Yes	8
FFT2	S-130, S-190 IS-700, ICS-100	No	

Why is it so hard?



Private Lands

- Contractors
- Hunter Access Program
- Pheasants Forever
- NRCS
- TNC



Private Lands


- 2010 – 2,737 acres 5 burns, 45 acres
- 2011 – 6,301 acres 5 burns, 93 acres
- 2012 – 4,133 acres 18 burns, 600 acres
- 2013 – 8,058 acres 19 burns, 697 acres
- 2014 – 7,094 acres 10 burns, 472 acres
- 2015 – 14,553 acres 13 burns, 221 acres
- 2016 – 15,373 acres 16 burns, 358 acres

We have a lot of work to do!

- Contractor & Private Lands Working Group
- Inventory of Needs
- More contractors
- Always looking for help



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Publications


2017 PA PRESCRIBED FIRE STANDARDS

 2017 Fire Standards

PA PRESCRIBED FIRE TASK BOOK - FireFighter Type I

 Taskbook - Firefighter Type I

PA PRESCRIBED FIRE TASK BOOK - Firing Boss

 Taskbook - Firing Boss

Latest News

- [2017 Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting](#)
- [New Events Calendar!](#)
- [How to Perform a Prescribed Fire?](#)
- [We need your photos!!](#)

Right Menu

- [Annual Membership Meeting Minutes](#)

A photograph of a wooded area with bare trees and a wire fence. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in yellow. The scene is a forest with many thin, vertical tree trunks and a ground covered in brown leaves and some fallen logs. A wire fence with wooden posts runs across the middle ground. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

Thank You